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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). According to Council resolution 2000/35, by which it established the Forum, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Council, by its decision 2007/273, decided that, commencing with the eighth session of the Forum, the officers elected to the Bureau would hold office for a term of two years.

On 27 April 2007, at the first meeting of its eighth session, the Forum elected Modesto Fernández (Cuba), Arvids Ozols (Latvia) and Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco) as members of the Bureau for the eighth session of the Forum. It postponed the election of the members from the regional groups of Asian States and Western European and Other States Groups, as well as the Chairperson and the Rapporteur, to a later meeting. Since the first meeting, the secretariat of the Forum has received the following nominations for the remaining positions on the Bureau:

(a) Boen M. Purnama (Indonesia) on behalf of the Group of Asian States;

(b) Glen Kile (Australia) on behalf of the Western European and Other States Group.

The Forum may wish to elect the above-mentioned persons to the Bureau of the eighth session of the Forum. The Forum may also wish to elect Mr. Purnama (Indonesia) as Chairperson, and Mr. Ozols (Latvia) as Rapporteur for the eighth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.18/2009/1)

3. Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

The General Assembly, by resolution 62/98, adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015, adopted at its seventh session (see resolution 7/1, annex, paras. 1 (a) (ii), (iii) and (c)), provided that at each session, the Forum would focus, inter alia, on progress towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests; and that it would have as its main task a discussion on the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding

instrument on all types of forests. A report of the Secretary-General is prepared to facilitate the deliberations of the Forum.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2009/2)

4. Regional and subregional inputs

By paragraph 2 (c) of its resolution 2006/49, the Economic and Social Council added a new principal function to strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum. In paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Council invited forest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes to strengthen collaboration and to provide input to the work of the Forum. The Forum, by its resolution 7/1 (annex, para. 1 (f) (iii)), decided to provide an interactive platform for dialogue with regional and subregional forest-related and other relevant processes, mechanisms, instruments and organizations. The Forum may wish to consider the report of the Secretary-General as a basis for convening such a dialogue.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2009/3)

5. Forests in a changing environment:

(a) Forests and climate change;

(b) Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including in low forest cover countries;

(c) Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas

Under the multi-year programme of work, adopted at its seventh session (resolution 7/1), the Forum decided to consider, at its eighth session, sub-items (a), (b) and (c) of agenda item 5 within its overall theme of "Forests in a changing environment". The deliberations on the specific topics, namely, (a) Forests and climate change; (b) Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including in low forest cover countries; and (c) Forests and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas, would be within the context of the main task of the Forum session as well as the cross-cutting issues and common agenda items as listed in the multi-year programme of work. The Forum has before it three separate reports of the Secretary-General for consideration.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on forests and climate change (E/CN.18/2009/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including in low forest cover countries (E/CN.18/2009/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on forests and biodiversity conservation including protected areas (E/CN.18/2009/6)

Note by the secretariat on forests in a changing environment: low forest cover countries, small island developing States and high and medium forest cover countries (E/CN.18/2009/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations for addressing key challenges of forests in a changing environment (E/CN.18/2009/8)

6. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management:

(a) Applying means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology;

(b) Decision on a voluntary global financial mechanism, a portfolio approach and a forest financing framework

According to the multi-year programme of work of the Forum, adopted at its seventh session (resolution 7/1), the second overall theme of the session is "Means of implementation for sustainable forest management". The provisional agenda for the eighth session, adopted by the Economic and Social Council (decision 2007/277), has further classified this item into two sub-items, namely, (a) Applying means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology; and (b) Decision on a voluntary global financial mechanism, a portfolio approach and a forest financing framework.

It may be noted that "means of implementation" is one of the cross-cutting issues that will be a recurrent item for each session and that the Economic and Social Council, through its resolution 2007/40 entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", has specifically decided to develop and consider, with a view to adopting at the eighth session of the Forum, a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework for all types of forests. The Forum may wish to consider a report of the Secretary-General in the deliberation of this agenda item. As mandated by the same Council resolution, the Forum convened an open-ended ad hoc expert group meeting to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework in Vienna from 10 to 14 November 2008. The outcome of the Expert Group meeting in the form of a Chair's summary has been submitted for consideration by the Forum at the current session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on finance and other means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2009/9)

Chair's summary report of the meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Expert Group to Develop Proposals for the Development of a Voluntary Global Financial Mechanism/Portfolio Approach/Forest Financing Framework (E/CN.18/2009/11)

7. Multi-stakeholder dialogue

The Forum has valued public participation in its work and has incorporated multi-stakeholder dialogues, involving the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21, in its multi-year programme of work. At each session since its second session in 2002, the Forum has been organizing multi-stakeholder dialogue, providing a platform for exchange of ideas and information between Member States and major groups on the Forum's work. The secretariat maintains constant contacts and continued consultations with major groups on the planning of the multi-stakeholder dialogues. It has been suggested that the multi-stakeholder dialogue of the eighth session be focused on seeking multi-stakeholder perspectives on the specific agenda items of the session. In preparing for the multi-stakeholder dialogue, the Forum may wish to consider a note by the secretariat and discussion papers submitted by major groups.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2009/13 and addenda), transmitting the discussion papers contributed by various major groups

8. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

At its first session in 2001, the Forum decided to develop and maintain contacts, cooperate and make active efforts to develop synergies with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments. The Forum may wish to recall that the Collaborative Partnership on Forests was formed in 2001 in response to a call from the Council (see resolution 2000/35, para. 3 (b)) to support the work of the Forum and to enhance cooperation and coordination among participants of the Partnership. As a result, the Partnership was established with the secretariats of 14 forest-related organizations, institutions and instruments, including the Forum secretariat. The latter also provides secretariat support to the Partnership, which is chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/49, decided to strengthen the international arrangement on forests, re-emphasized the significance of the Partnership to the work of the Forum and reaffirmed that the Partnership would receive guidance from the Forum on its supportive role to the Forum.

The Partnership has been actively engaged in several initiatives in support of the work of the Forum. The Forum has before it for its consideration a report of the Secretary-General on this agenda item and an information document on the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2008 and 2009. The Forum may wish to consider approaches for further enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination and providing guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2009/10)

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2008 and 2009: information document (E/CN.18/2009/12)

9. The Forum Trust Fund

With a view to ensuring transparency, the Forum, in its resolution 7/1 on its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, requested the Forum secretariat to report at each session on the operation of the Forum Trust Fund, including on the amount and source of contributions and a description of how funds have been expended. The Forum may wish to consider a note by the secretariat on the Trust Fund and provide further support for its strengthening.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat on the Trust Fund (E/CN.18/2009/15)

10. Dates and venue for the ninth session of the Forum

The Forum shall decide upon the dates and venue for the ninth session.

11. Provisional agenda for the ninth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a provisional agenda for the ninth session.

12. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its eighth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.